

Serial No. 10/800,705

Attorney Docket No. 01-612

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. It appears that the examiner may have intended to apply 35 USC 102 to claims 1 and 4, since no statement of what is considered to be obvious is given. In any event, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 2 was said to be allowable if written in independent form in paragraph 5 of the office action. Claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is now the same as claim 2 written in independent form and thus should be in condition for allowance.

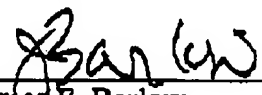
Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 3 depends on claim 1. Claim 1 is considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. Therefore, claim 3 should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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